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THE OBSERVATOR.

Further Remarks on the Case of the Cevennois. *Remarks on the Lords Representation of the Victualing to Her Majesty.*

From **Saturday** April the 15th, to **Wednesday** April the 19th, 1704.

Country-m. MAfter *Observator*, I can't yet part with the Subject of the *Cevennois*; it is a useful Sub-
ct, if it be not painful and unsafe to your self.
Obs. Those are Considerations beneath One that has Dedicated himself to the Service of his Country. No True *Englishman* can be displeas'd at a Discourse that Tends not to the Prejudice, but to the Advantage of the Confederacy and the *Realm*.

It is a known Maxim *Divide & Impera*; it is indeed of Ancient Date, but will hold true to the utmost Limits of Time: For certainly there is no readier way to Ruin a Kingdom, than by Fomenting *Intestine Divisions*, which may occasion a *Civil War*: When this great Thing is Effected, a Nation is half lost to themselves, and half Conquer'd by the Enemy. What prodigious Cost and Charge has the *French* King been at in Raising *Civil Discords* and *Broils* in the Countries of his Enemies? We have two Instances now in view; In *Hungary* he has Encouraged even the *Protestants* to continue in Arms against the Emperour, without being Obstructed in his Designs, by the vain Notions of *Disloyalty* and *Rebellion*. The *Scots* Plot is a *French* Stratagem, contriv'd by *French* Councils, and carried on by *French* Money; and to this we may add the *Discords* in the *North*; for tho' the *French* King has no Pretensions to any of the *Northern* Territories, yet, by Embroiling the Affairs of those Kingdoms, he has kept back great Strength and Succours from the Confederates.

Now suppose the *French* King could by any means procure the like Rupture in *England* as is at present in *France*, do you think he would not Improve such an Opportunity with the utmost vigour? Would he spare any Cost and Charges? Would such *Male-Contents* want either Money or Men? No surely, we should soon find the Effects of *French* Policy by a speedy Assistance. But Blessed be God, We have no such Rupture in *England*; tho' our Livisions plainly Demonstrate that he has been Tampering for that End, and the Contentious Spirits of some Men amongst us, tell us what Cause they are engaged in, and whose Interest they serve. We are sure they are no Friends to the *Protestant* Interest or the Government of Queen *Anne*, who Act so very Opposite to Her Majesties Most Gracious and Pious Inclination to *Peace* and *Unity* among Her Subjects, which she has so often Recommended in Her Speeches from the Throne, and Her Publick Declarations, as well as by Her Royal Example.

Let us in the next Place consider the Advantage that will arise to the Common Cause by reducing the Kingdom of *Spain* to the House of *Austria*. The Eyes of all *Europe* are looking that Way; and the bringing of that Affair to a Happy Issue, will bring the Affairs of *France* to a *Crisis*. Now it seems to me more than Probable, that the assisting of the *Cevennois*, would be a great Instrument, if not the shortest Way, of putting the House of *Austria* into Possession of the Crown of *Spain*: The stronger the *Male-Contents* are in the *Cevennes*, the more Forces the King of *France* must send to Suppress them, and Consequently the fewer he must have on the *Rhine*, in *Bavaria*, and to Oppose the newly Proclaimed King of *Spain* in *Portugal*; and being thus Weak nd in numbers in any place, if he loses one Battel, press'd by the Augmented Forces of the Confederates, he will be the sooner brought to *Reason* or *Ruin*.

Now, Honest *Country-man*, I have shown you what has been the Practice of some of our Princes, in Relation to their Opinion of such sort of People as are those in the *Cevennes*. I shall farther show you the other Methods that they have used, besides open Hostility and Force of Arms, for the Relief of Distressed *Protestant* Subjects of other Princes.

In the Year 1674, when the Emperour carry'd on a most Severe and Cruel Persecution against the *Protestants* in some Parts of *Germany* and *Hungary*; the then King of *Sweden* Interpos'd on the behalf of the *Protestants*, as appears by the Memorial of the Count *Oxensteirn*, at that time Ambassador Extraordinary from the Court of *Sweden* to that of the Empire; part of which I will read to you.

The said Ambassador says to his Imperial Majesty, *That his Master, the King of* Sweden, *hopes he will not think strange, if he cannot behold without Regret, and without Interposing in their behalf, that his own Religion should, in those of the same Profession, suffer so dismal a Persecution; and under this Colour, that so many, not only Innocent, but well Deserving Persons, Ruined in all their Fortunes, should be exposed to the most exquisite Contumelies and Mockeries; and that the* Protestant *Ministers, especially in the Cities of* Hungary, Leopoldople, Capuarina, Camara *and others, being most Violently seized on, should be Pillaged and Insolently Abused, and Flead with Stripes, Starv'd with Hunger and Nakedness, be Thrust down into most Loathsome and Horrible Prisons among Snakes and Toads; and more-over so Bound and Manacled, that they want all Defence to help themselves against the Venemous Creatures, and that even where they are most favourably dealt with, and suffered to Live above Ground; that there being compell'd to Employments not so Laborious, but the most Filthy and Noisome that can be Invented, Loaded perpetually with Chains, more Cruel than those that are Guilty of the most Heinous Parricides or Treasons, without all Commiseration, without any Satiety in*

Mocking

Mocking and Abuſing them, they ſhould lead a Life, than which Hell *it ſelf may ſeem more Tolerable. To this may be added, That to deprive their Souls and Conſciences of all means of Inſtruction, all Schools, and helps of good Education and Piety, by which their Youth in their Tender Age ought to be brought up, and formed for uſe and ſerviceableneſs, and to a faithful Subjection towards your Imperial Majeſty, are, without any Regard to the Maintenance of Publick Faith, abſolutely refuſed them,* &c. The reſt is as Lamentable a Story of the Perſecutions of theſe poor *Proteſtants*, and a true Relation of the Concern had for them by the King of *Sweden*; 'tis too long for me to Read out at preſent, and therefore take it Home with you and Read it at your Leiſure.

But here you may obſerve the Opinion of a *Proteſtant* Crown'd Head in this Caſe; and without doubt King *Charles* the Second had equal Sentiments; for you find this Memorial was Printed by his Majeſties Printer in the Year 167⅘.

And this was done in a time of Peace, when *England* and *Sweden* had no difference with the Emperour. But, ſuppoſe *Sweden* had then been Engaged in a War with the Empire, and thoſe *Proteſtants* had been in the ſame Condition with thoſe now in the *Cevennes*, by his Majeſties ſenſible Affection of their Grievances, and the Juſtice of their Cauſe, we may eaſily believe he would not have been backward in giving them *Aſſiſtance*.

Country-m. Well, Maſter *Obſervator*, I am fully confirm'd in my Opinion of the Lawfulneſs, Advantage and Honour of Aſſiſting the *Cevennois*: Will you now be pleas'd to give us your Remarks on the *Lords Repreſentation of the Affair of the Victualling to Her Majeſty*.

Obſ. Truly, Honeſt *Country-man*, that *Repreſentation of the Houſe of Lords*, was ſo very Neceſſary, and uſeful at this Juncture, that without it we had infallibly fallen into Deſtruction. We were Wounded in the moſt ſenſible part of our National Strength, it was even come to a *Gangreen*, and could be cured by no other methods, than by the Conſiderations of ſo Juſt and Compaſſionate an Aſſembly, as that of the *Houſe of Peers*. All other Attempts for the Relief of the poor Diſtreſſed Sailors fail'd us, even where we had the greateſt hopes of Redreſs; and had not their Caſe been here heard, we might in a ſhort time have ſeen the *Marine Garlands* of *England* Raviſh'd from the Crown, and have ſhaken Hands with *Engliſh* Liberties.

How it will be managed for the future, is none of my Buſineſs or Care; but we now know where the Sailors of *England* may apply for Redreſs, under the Preſſures of Corruption. I ſhall amply ſhow you, in a ſhort time, what Great and Glorious Things the *Houſe of Lords* have done for the good People of *England* in this laſt Seſſions of Parliament; for which every *Engliſhman* ought to pay the higheſt Reſpect and Deference to thoſe Noble Perſonages; and this for what they have done; but when we conſider our Benefit receiv'd from them, as the Earneſts and Pledges of their future favour, and then think of the Remainder of thoſe good Things we have in Expectation from them, when we have them in a true View, as the *Sheet-Anchors* of our *Navy*, the *Pillars* of our *State* and *Church*, and the *Support* of the *Crown*, and the Old *Engliſh* Conſtitution; we may reſt our ſelves Contented in a ſure and certain Hope of a Joyful Reſurrection of the Antient Honour and Glory of the *Engliſh* Nation.

The *Houſe of Lords* being reſolv'd to Repair Breaches of our ſhatter'd State, like Prudent Women, began where 'twas moſt faulty, well knowing that if the Empire of the Ocean was maintain'd, they might have the better Leiſure to conſider of Remedies for thoſe Diſtempers that are moſt Predominant Aſhore; like a Prudent Governour of a Cittadel, whoſe Soldiers in Garriſon are Infected with *Faction* and *Diſcord* amongſt themſelves; and in Alliance with the Enemy without; He puts the Poſſeſſion of the *Walls* and *Avenues* into the Hands of Men of Fidelity and Courage; and then Concerts Methods to quell the Diviſions and Factions of his Soldiers. 'Tis true what the *Houſe of Lords* did in Relation to the *Scots Plot*, was an equitable and ſeaſonable Enquiry. But a Plot to deſtroy our Sailors, and thereby to Ruin the *Engliſh* Navy, is of more dangerous Conſequence to the Nation, than an Hundred Plots hatch'd at St. *Germains*; for none of those Plots can take effect, till the Ruin of our Navy is Accompliſhed.

And this Repreſentation of the *Lords* is conſiderable in this Point; In that their *Lordſhips* have Recommended the Complainers to Her Majeſty, as having done a Publick Service to the Nation, and as deſerving a Reward and Recompence from Her Majeſty, ſuitable to the Charge and Trouble they have been at. And indeed, the Diſcouragement the Complainers have met with in that National Service, has been the Greateſt Occaſion of Publick Frauds and Miſmanagements: They have been Brow-beaten at Boards and Scandalized by the Ignominious Title of Informers; and the Perſons Accuſed in this Complaint, and who are ſtill continued in the Service of the Victualling, have lately given Charge to thoſe under them, not to keep Company with any of the Evidences in this Complaint, upon Penalty of being Cathier'd the Office; ſuch is the Fate of thoſe that ſerve their Country in Caſes of this Nature, they are ſet out in the Shapes of *Bears* and *Wolves*, and render'd unfit for Humane Society.

Country-m. That ſignifies nothing, as long as the *Houſe of Lords* have another Opinion of them; and I make no queſtion but Her Majeſty will gratifie them according to the *Lords Repreſentation*.

Obſ. If ſome Men may State their Reward, they will have little enough.

Country-m. Look ye, Maſter *Obſervator*, I'll be very Modeſt, ſuppoſe theſe Men have Sav'd the Lives of but five Thouſand Sailors at Ten Pounds a Head, it comes to Fifty Thouſand Pound; but the loſs is greater; for theſe Five Thouſand Sailors would have Lived to get more Sailors, enough for ought I know to Man half the Navy; we don't know the good theſe Men have done the Publick. I am ſure I would give Ten times Ten Pound to keep my *Joan* from being Poiſon'd, for all ſhe's an Old Woman. Come, Maſter, One Bumper to our good Patriots, the *Lords*, and then to Bed.

Advertiſement.

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